

FACTS about...

The Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS)

- The National Cancer Institute (NCI) developed the **Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS)** to examine access, sources, and trust of cancer-related information, or factors that facilitate or hinder communication on a population-wide basis.
- HINTS is a nationally representative telephone survey of the general population that was first conducted in 2002-2003, and will be repeated biennially depending on availability of funding.
- The **purpose** of creating a population survey to be repeated on a cyclical basis is to track trends in the public's use of new communication technologies while charting progress in meeting health communication goals in terms of the public's knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors.
- **HINTS 2** is currently underway, surveying approximately 7,000 people through October 2005.
- The goal of HINTS is to further research in health communication and health promotion and provide useful information for programs, policies, and practices in a variety of settings.
- HINTS data is widely available for researchers and practitioners; Further information about HINTS and HINTS data are available at the following site:
<http://hints.cancer.gov/>
- The following publications from HINTS 1 are now available:
 - Nelson DE, Kreps GL, Hesse BW, Croyle RT, Willis G, Arora NK, Rimer BK, Viswanath KV, Weinstein N, Alden S. The Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS): development, design, and dissemination. *J Health Commun.* 2004 Sep-Oct;9(5):443-60; discussion 81-4.
 - Finney Rutten LJ, Meissner HI, Breen N, Vernon SW, Rimer BK. Factors associated with men's use of prostate-specific antigen screening: evidence from Health Information National Trends Survey. *Prev Med.* 2005 Apr;40(4):461-8.
 - Finney Rutten LJ, Wanke K, Augustson E. Systems and individual factors associated with smoking status: Evidence from HINTS. *Am J Health Behav* 2005, 29(4):302-310.
 - Hesse, B. W., Nelson, D. E., Kreps, G. L., Croyle, R. T., Arora, N. K., Rimer, B. K., Viswanath, K. (in press). Trust and Sources of Health Information: The Impact of the Internet and Its Implications for Health Care Providers. *Arch Intern Med.*
 - Weinstein ND, Marcus SE, Moser RP. Smokers' unrealistic optimism about their risk. *Tob Control.* 2005 Feb;14(1):55-9.